tricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembl

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/1/99 H3/3/99 S3/18/99*

82nd General Assembly

A Bill

Act 1083 of 1999

Regular Session, 1999

HOUSE BILL 1620

By: Representatives Ferrell, *Madison, C. Johnson*

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO COORDINATE DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"TO COORDINATE DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Department of Education shall oversee and coordinate the implementation of distance learning in elementary and secondary public schools in the state. Distance learning shall be available to one hundred (100) elementary and secondary public schools in the state by August *1, 2000. Distance learning shall be available to all school districts in the state by August 1, 2004.*

(b) The Department of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing appropriate adult supervision.

(c) The elementary or secondary school may import courses from outside the state; however, the course curriculum shall be approved by the Department of Education prior to offering the courses through distance learning.

(d) The courses offered through distance learning shall include but not be limited to:

(1) College preparatory courses, including, but not limited to calculus, physics, Arkansas history, foreign language courses, and computer science; and

(2) Technological courses, including, but not limited to advanced math and science courses, advanced computer skills courses, and advanced

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courses in the arts.

(e) The Department of Education shall work with the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences, the Arkansas Educational Television Commission, the Education Service Cooperatives, and other state agencies involved in distance learning in implementing distance learning.

SECTION 2. The Department of Higher Education shall oversee and coordinate the implementation of distance learning in two (2) year colleges, *four (4) year institutions of higher learning and universities* in *the state. The Department of Workforce Education shall cooperate with the Department of Higher Education in implementing the provisions of this section.*

SECTION 3. (a) The Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education shall work together to implement distance learning throughout the state.

(b) The Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education shall present a report to the House Interim Committee on Education and the

Senate Interim Committee on Education by December 31, 1999 reporting the status and progress of distance learning in Arkansas.

(c) The Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education shall not be required to implement the provisions of this Act if funds are not made available.

SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

/s/ Ferrel APPROVED: 4/5/1999l

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